

Dear [...name here...],

My name is Eliza Oldach. I am a student at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. For my senior project, I am studying a range of perspectives on human experiences with Lyme disease. One form of research for this project is conducting interviews with people that have been impacted, in some way, by the disease. You were recommended to me as a possible participant by [...explain contact here...] because [...explain why...]. I am interested in interviewing you as part of my study. This form provides information about what is entailed in being in this study; please read and feel free to ask any questions before agreeing to participate.

The interview would take between 30 to 45 minutes of your time. With your permission, I would like to digitally record it. In the interview, I will ask you to talk about your experience [...explain questions...discovering you were infected with Lyme? Drafting deer herd control plans for Bar Harbor? debating the existence of chronic Lyme disease with the broader medical field?...].

I wish to use the findings of this and other interviews in communicating the full story of Lyme disease in Maine, from the science to the human experience to the community response. With your permission, I plan to use excerpts from this interview in a written and audio format in my final products: a *National Geographic*-type article and a podcast. I will share both of these products with you.

There is some risk to taking part in this study, as you may be asked to talk about personal experiences that were challenging for you or a loved one. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and I ask that you only share what you are comfortable sharing with me and, eventually, the audience of my article and podcast. You may choose not to answer a question. You may choose to stop the interview at any point. You may choose to strike a response from the record, or ask that something not be used in the final products. I will keep your identity confidential, and use a pseudonym when referring to you, unless you give explicit permission for me to use your name. I will keep your records private to the extent allowed by law. Please choose your level of anonymity by selecting an option below.

There will be no compensation for your participation, beyond my sincere thanks.

Please feel free to contact me or my advisor if you have any questions, concerns, or comments about the project.

Thank you!
Eliza Oldach

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(443)928-9461

Faculty Advisor: Helen Hess, hess@coa.edu, (207) 288-5015 ext. 5713.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this study and would like to talk to someone other than the researcher(s), contact the Ethical Research Review Board at College of the Atlantic chaired by Heath Cabot, hcabot@coa.edu, (207) 288-5015 ext 5734.

Please indicate your level of participation in the study:

Full participation. Interview excerpts can be used in written and audio forms; name and identifying characteristics can be used. Checking this option grants me permission to use your interview and reveal your name and identifying characteristics.

Mostly anonymous participation. When excerpts from the interview are used, I will use a pseudonym. No other characteristics will be changed.

Fully anonymous participation. When excerpts from the interview are used, all identifying characteristics (name, physical features, identifying story) will be removed.